

CLASSIFICATION SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

Czechoslovakia

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SUBJECT

Mitas National Corporation in Prague XX
and Tire Production

NO. OF PAGES 1

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1. The Mitas National Corporation in Prague XX was formerly the French factory "Michelin", which was nationalized in 1946. For location see figure (1) of Enclosure (A). After World War II it was continuously expanded and in the fall of 1950 the number of employees amounted to 2,000 persons. Predominantly tires for military vehicles were manufactured here. Because of that fact the enterprise was under military supervision.
 2. This was the only factory in Czechoslovakia which produced tires of US dimensions. Each of the three shifts produced an average of 420 tires of various types. Products which could not be used by the Czechoslovak Army were exported to Poland, Hungary or the USSR. The USSR received mainly tires for trucks and jeeps. Because of the scarcity of raw materials, particularly caoutchouc, and because of the wage cuts which took place in the summer of 1950, the quality of products did not reach the standard required by the customers abroad and many were returned. Such products were then taken over by the Czechoslovak Army or sold on the domestic market. Some of these returned products, however, were stored in warehouses as waste.
 3. Eight per cent of the products were defective. This was due to two factors: poor workmanship because the workers tried to meet the high production standards and the use of substitutes in production. Some production materials came from old tires which could not be repaired anymore. It was necessary to use such materials because of the scarcity of raw materials. The old and new materials were mixed together. The finished tire was too hard so that very often it exploded, particularly when the military vehicle entered a curve. Therefore, the Ministry of Defence ordered experts in the firm "Svit", in Zlin (Gottwaldov) to find out and remove all deficiencies in the production of the tires.
 4. The workers were not satisfied because of low wages. The average wage amounted to 4,000 crowns per month.
 5. The vulcanizing machines and other equipment were generally of foreign make.
 6. The premises of the factory could be entered only by special permit issued to each employee. In addition, permit employees were equipped with a control card on which was entered the arrival and departure time of the worker. This card was kept in the guard lodge.
 7. In addition to the regular night guards, the factory had a workers' militia in case of emergency. This militia was utilized mostly during state holidays, Party congresses, meetings and the like. Members of the militia had to be members of the Czechoslovak Communist Party.
- ENCLOSURE (A) Sketch Showing the Section of Prague Where the Mitas National Corporation is located

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1. ZAVOD "MITAS"

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